



Aged, Blind & Disabled Categorically Needy TOP 20 DRUGS Includes Dual Eligible Population

March 22, 2001

DURING FY 2000, the number of drug prescriptions for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Categorically Needy clients increased 28.1 percent over early 1998. The average cost for all prescription drugs increased even more, rising 31.7 percent, and spending for prescription drugs showed a 60.3 percent increase over the two-year period from early 1998.

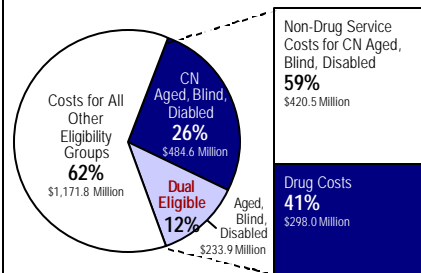
Mirroring MAA expenditures, nationwide statistics show expansive growth in pharmaceutical spending. The highest use and cost growth for prescription drugs is found within the aged population, which reflects a switch to newer, higher-priced drugs and increases in the number of prescriptions per senior, according to Medicine and Health News. On Capitol Hill, public and private sector representatives have decried recent drug cost increases and have predicted double digit growth through Year 2011.

In this section, the report targets prescription drugs use and costs. The drugs were grouped into 20 Drug Therapeutic Class (DTC). Of these, anti-psychotics, antidepressants and anticonvulsants accounted for 28 percent of drug expenditures for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Categorically Needy clients. Drugs used for treating stomach disorders accounted for 8.3 percent of expenditures and pain management drug expenditures were 5.5 percent of total prescription drug expenditures.

This report combines prescription drug expenditures for Medicaid and Medicaid/Medicare clients. Drug manufacturer rebate amounts are not included in the analysis.

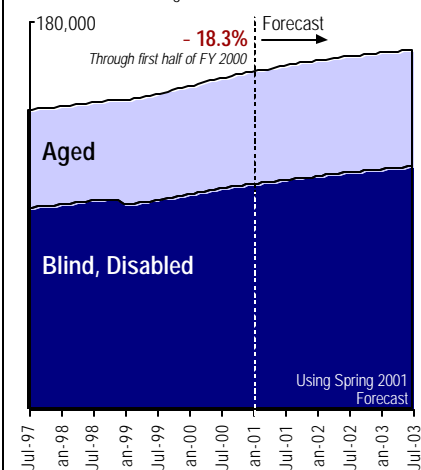
MAA Payments for Client Services

FY 2000 TOTAL = \$1,890.3 Million



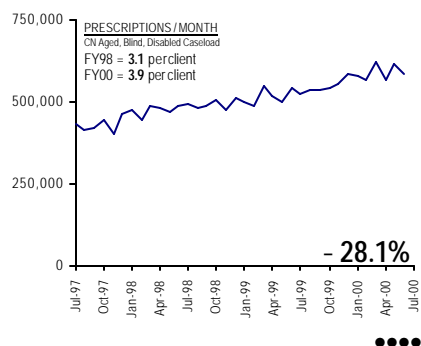
Enrollment and Forecast

Fiscal Years 1998 through 2003

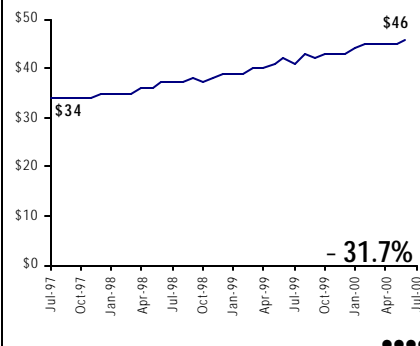


Drug Utilization and Costs: Categorically Needy – Aged, Blind, Disabled

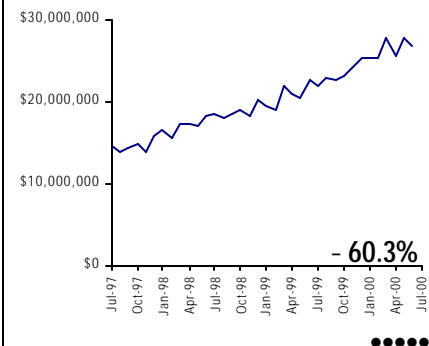
TOTAL Number of Prescriptions per Month



Average Cost for ALL Drugs



TOTAL Drug Costs



DOTS represent percent change: ●●●●●●●● = Over 75 percent increase. ●●●●●●●● = 50.0 to 74.9 percent.
●●●●●●●● = 30.0 to 49.9 percent. ●●●●●●●● = 20.0 to 29.9 percent. ●●●●●●●● = 10.0 to 19.9 percent.
●●●●●●●● = 5.0 to 9.9 percent. ●●●●●●●● = 0 to 4.9 percent. None = Decrease.

DETAIL: Drug Utilization and Cost by Major Diagnostic Category

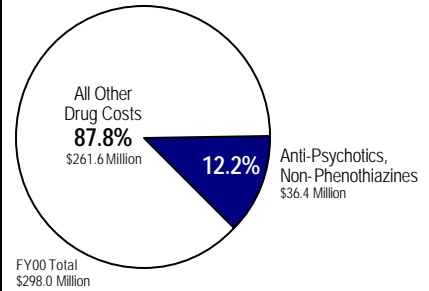
Anti-Psychotics, Non-Phenothiazines

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP H2L

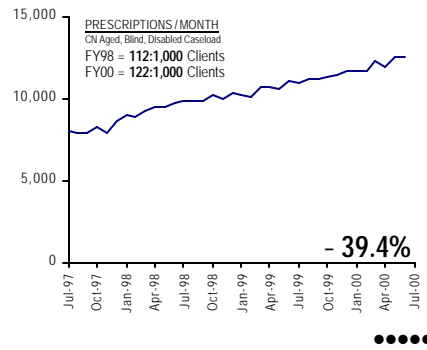
This drug class includes the atypical anti-psychotics such as Zypreza, Risperdal, Clozaril and Seroquel.

Likely due to: The atypicals are thought to be better tolerated with fewer side effects than the older anti-psychotics and consequently the use of these drugs is increasing.

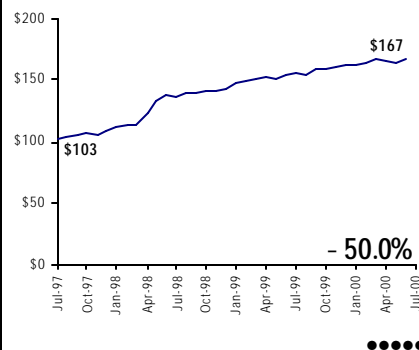
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



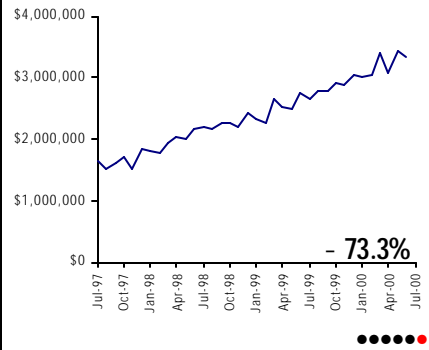
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Anti-Psychotic, Non-Phenothiazine Costs



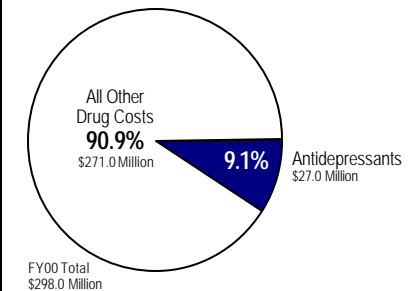
Antidepressants

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP H2J

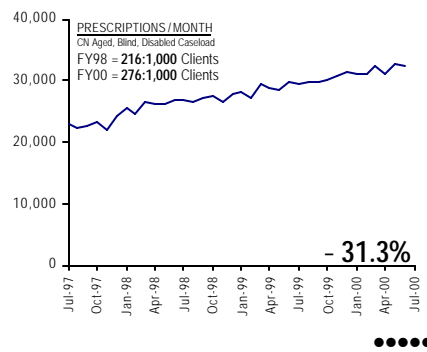
This drug class includes the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors such as Prozac, Zoloft, Paxil and Celexa, which are drugs used for depression.

Likely due to: Increased public awareness of the importance to treat depression is one factor increasing the use of antidepressants. This group of drugs is thought to be generally better tolerated than other, older antidepressants. There is a great variability between individuals and how they react to these drugs.

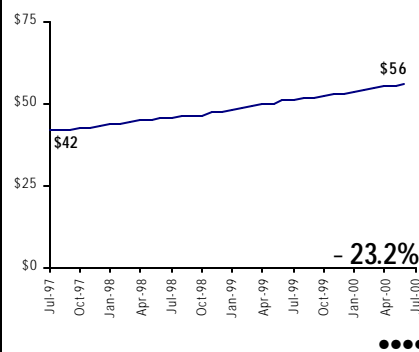
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



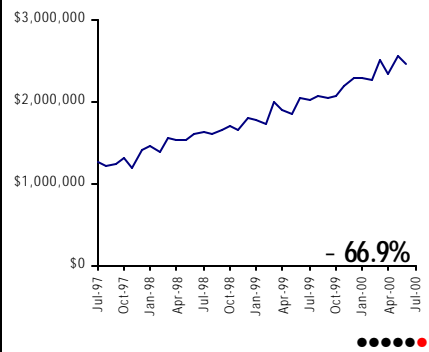
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Antidepressants



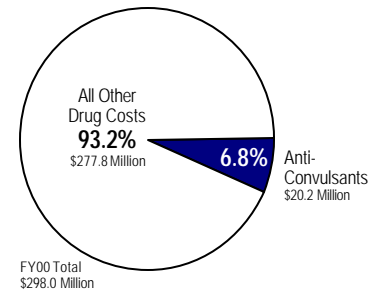
Anticonvulsants

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP H4B

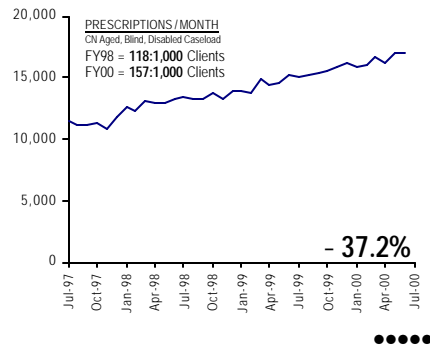
Drugs in this category are used to control seizure disorders. Some of these drugs have been shown to also be useful as adjuncts to mental health drugs.

Likely due to: The increased use of these agents most likely represents increased use in supplementing drugs used for psychotic illnesses treatment.

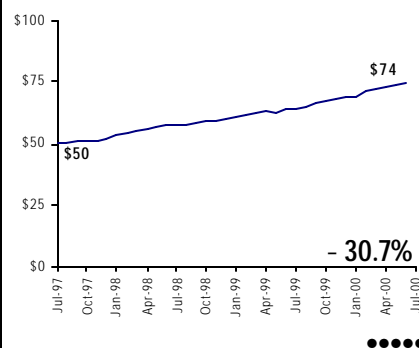
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



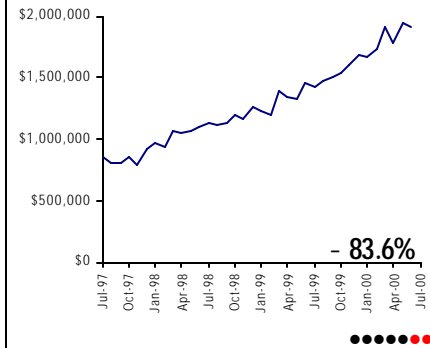
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Anticonvulsants



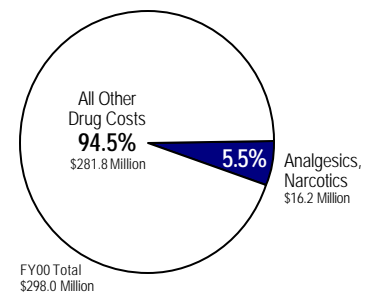
Analgesics, Narcotics

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP H3A

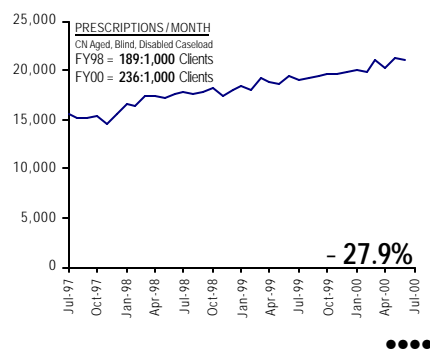
This drug class contains pain medications such as Tylenol with Codeine, Vicodin, Oxycontin, morphine and other pain medications used for acute and chronic pain.

Likely due to: In recent years, there has been an increased emphasis on effective pain management to control chronic pain. There have also been increased promotional and marketing efforts by drug manufacturers to prescribers.

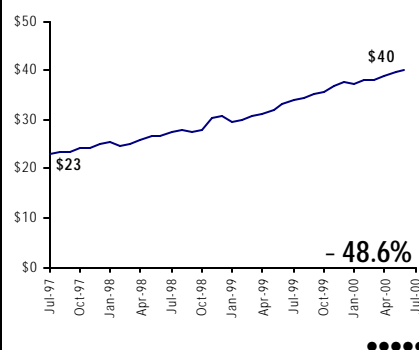
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



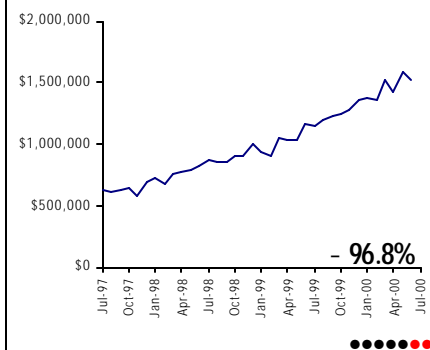
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Cost for Analgesics and Narcotics



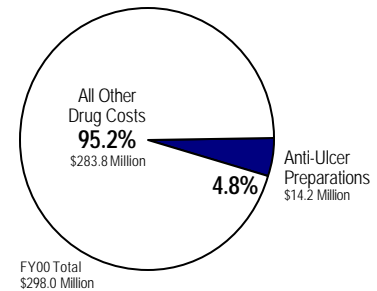
Anti-Ulcer Preparations

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP D4E

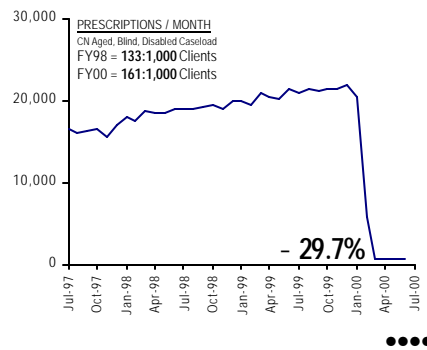
Drugs in this class include Carafate and Cytotec, which are drugs used to treat stomach and duodenal ulcers.

Likely due to: The abrupt decrease in this drug class is associated with a corresponding increase in the use of two other drug classes below (H2RAs and PPIs) that are the preferred agents for maximum efficacy in treating ulcers.

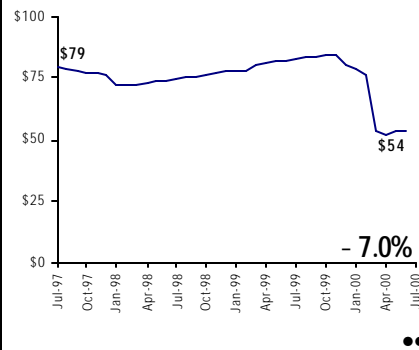
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



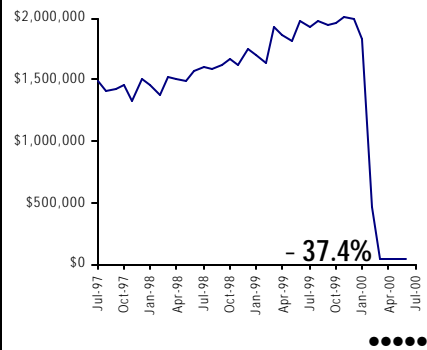
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Anti-Ulcer Preparations



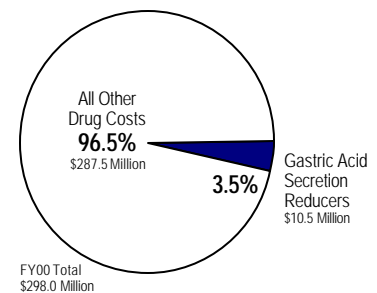
Gastric Acid Secretion Reducers

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP D4K

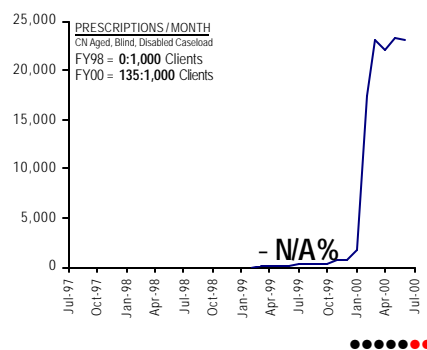
Drugs in this class include the histamine H2 receptor antagonists (H2RAs) and the proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) and are the drugs of choice to treat gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and stomach and duodenal ulcers.

Likely due to: Efficacy studies were released in late 1999 that showed good outcomes in treating and preventing the reoccurrence of ulcers with these drugs.

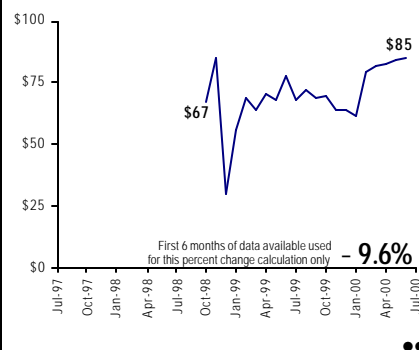
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



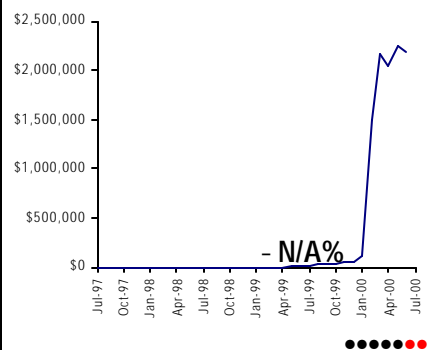
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Gastric Acid Secretion Reducers



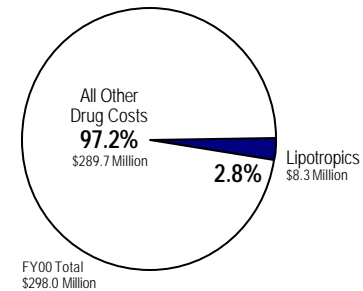
Lipotropics

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP M4E

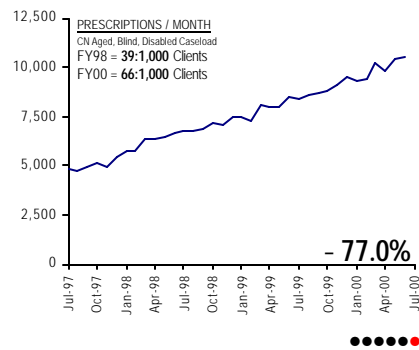
These drugs are used to lower blood cholesterol levels.

Likely due to: There is an increased awareness and promotion by the drug companies of the value of reducing blood cholesterol levels and the associated improved outcomes in patients with risk factors for coronary heart disease.

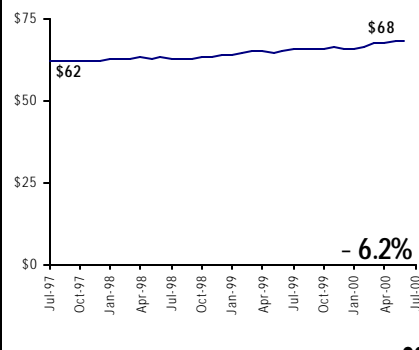
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



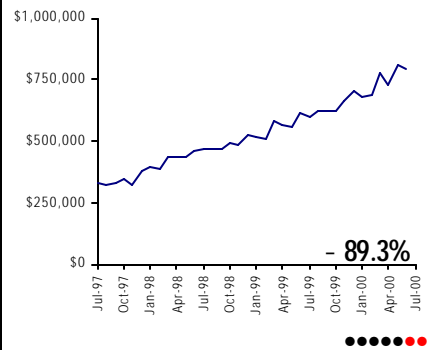
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Lipotropics



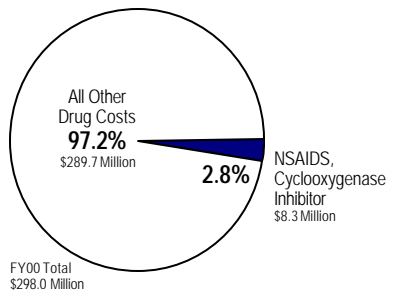
NSAIDS, Cyclooxygenase Inhibitor - Type

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP S2B

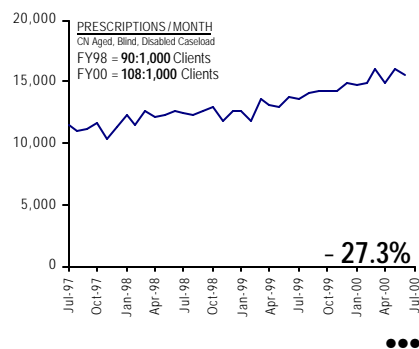
Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS), including the new COX II inhibitors are in this class and are used to treat the chronic pain associated with rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, as well as acute pain. These agents are effective alternatives to narcotic analgesics, when used appropriately.

Likely due to: COX II inhibitors were released for marketing in March 1999 and are more expensive drugs than the older NSAIDS. The manufacturers of these drugs actively promote these drugs using direct-to-consumer advertising. Early studies showed better safety when used short-term compared to the older NSAIDS.

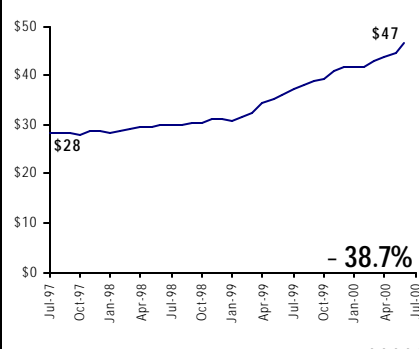
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



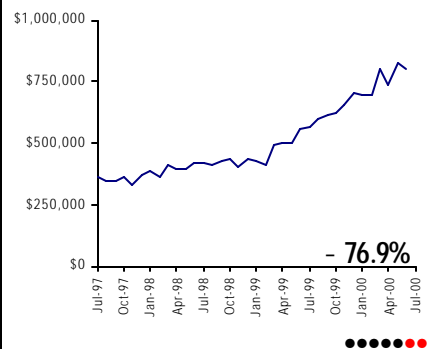
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Cost, NSAIDS, Cyclooxygenase Inhibitors



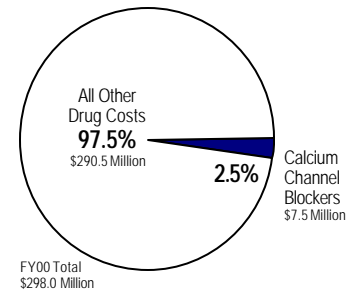
Calcium Channel Blocking Agents

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP A9A

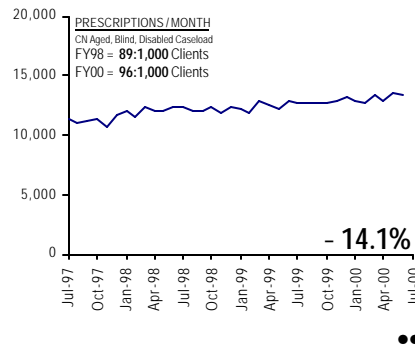
These drugs are used to treat high blood pressure and angina.

Likely due to: The increase use is consistent with the general increase in utilization by the Medicaid fee-for-service population.

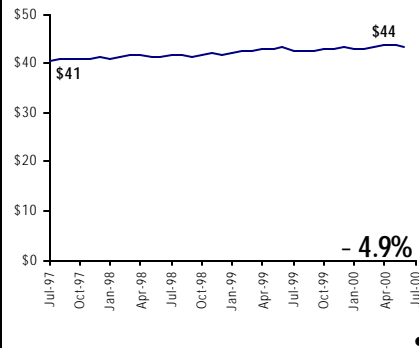
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



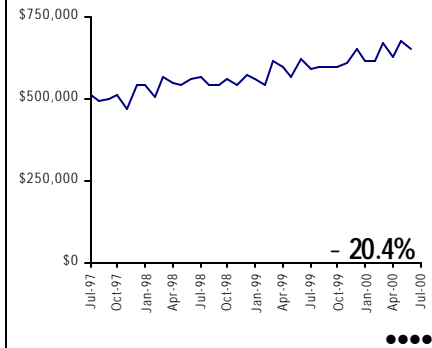
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Calcium Channel Blocking Agents



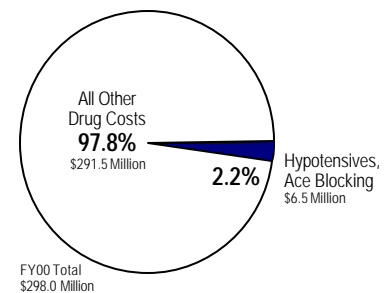
Hypotensives, Ace Blocking Type

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP A4D

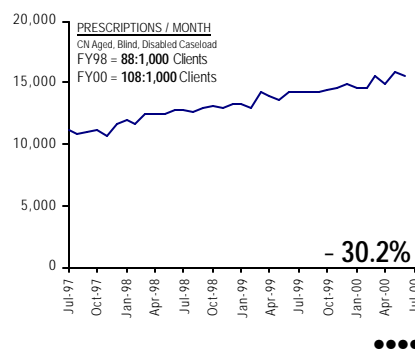
These drugs are used to treat high blood pressure, heart failure, and diabetic kidney disease.

Likely due to: There is increased awareness of the value in improving health care outcomes when diabetic patients with high blood pressure are treated with ACE inhibitors.

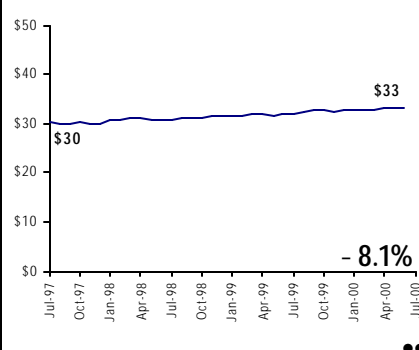
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



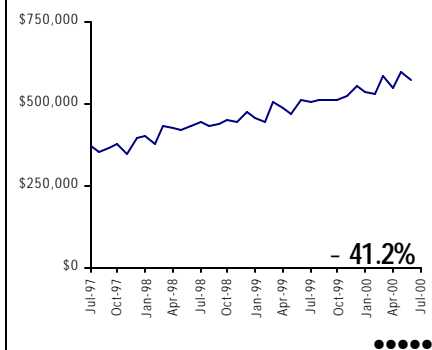
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Hypotensives (Ace Blocking)



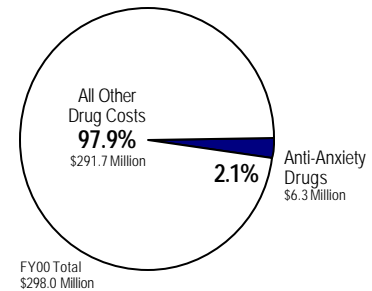
Anti-Anxiety Drugs

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP H2F

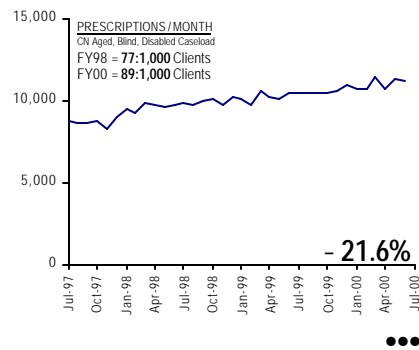
These drugs are used to decrease anxiety from various causes.

Likely due to: The increased use is consistent with the general increase in utilization by the Medicaid fee-for-service population and consistent with the high percent of clients receiving treatment for mental health disorders.

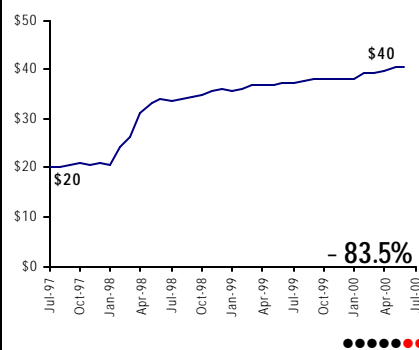
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



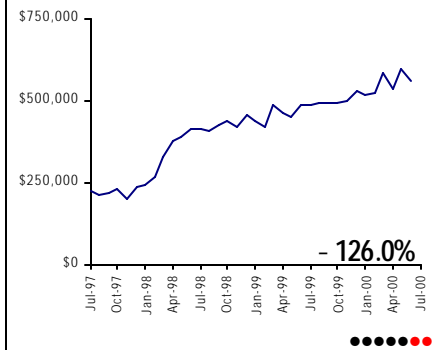
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Anti-Anxiety Drugs



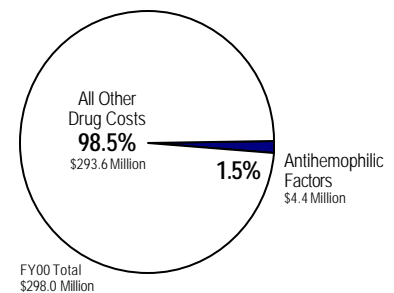
Antihemophilic Factors

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP M0E

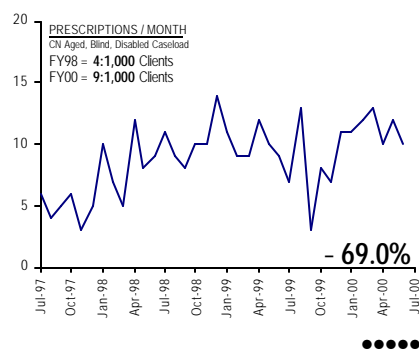
These drugs are used to prevent and treat bleeding inpatients with hemophilia.

Likely due to: Refinements in the biotechnology used in the manufacture of some of the newer agents have increased the drug costs, but have also decreased the risk of viral transmission possible with the older, human-derived blood products.

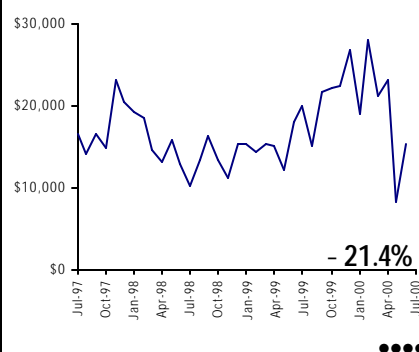
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



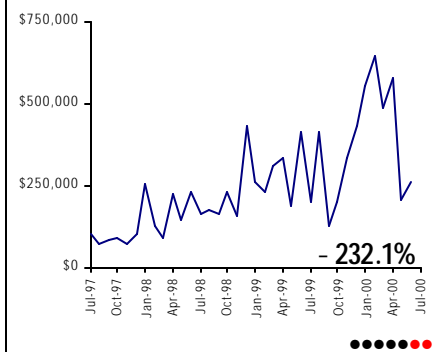
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Antihemophilic Factors



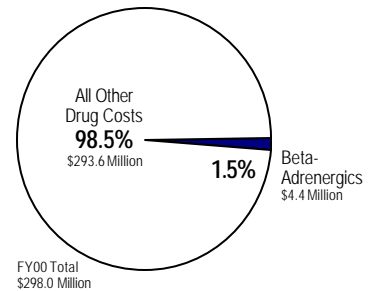
Beta-Adrenergic Agents

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP J5D

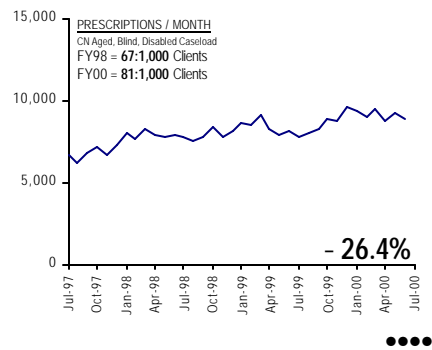
Drugs in this drug class are used to treat bronchospasms associated with reactive airway disease, such as asthma.

Likely due to: The increase use is consistent with the general increase in utilization by the Medicaid fee-for-service population. Unfortunately, there has been an increase in asthma in children nationally, as well as in Washington State, which may account for some of the increased utilization.

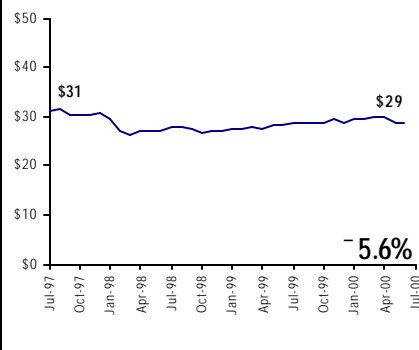
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



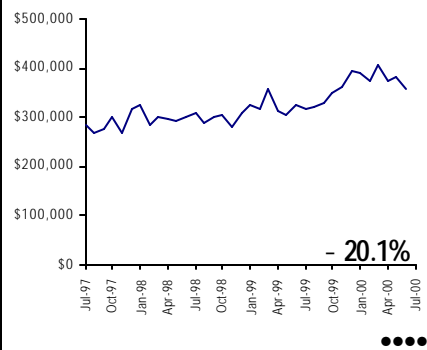
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Beta-Adrenergic Agents



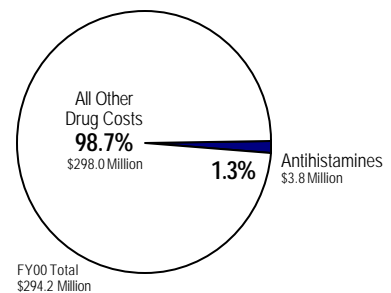
Antihistamines

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP Z2A

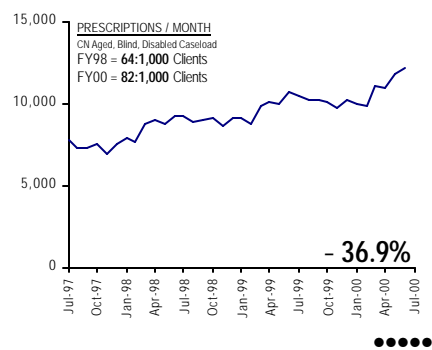
The antihistamines are used for seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis (runny nose) and for symptoms of other allergic reactions, such as itching, and hives.

Likely due to: Direct-to-consumer advertising of the non-sedating antihistamines (Claritin) has escalated pharmacy prescription claims for these drugs.

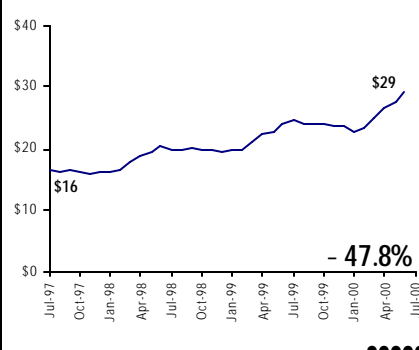
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



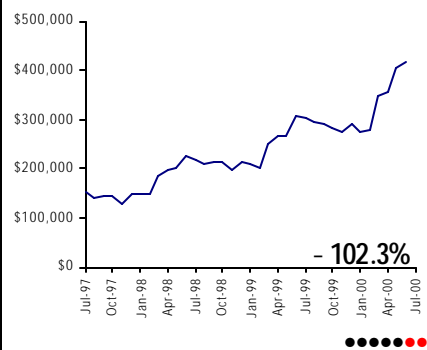
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Antihistamines



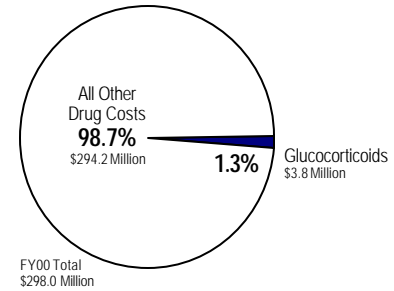
Glucocorticoids

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP P5A

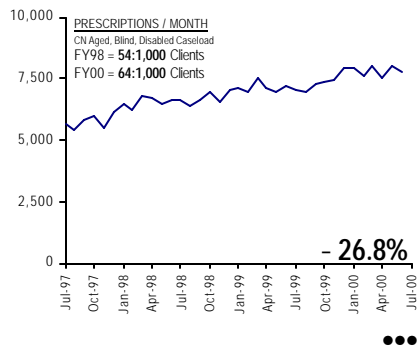
The drugs in this class are the inhaled steroids, which are used to decrease inflammation in airways often associated with asthma.

Likely due to: This increase is consistent with the general increase in utilization of drugs by the Medicaid fee-for-service population. MAA and the Drug Utilization and Education Council actively promotes the use of inhaled steroids inpatients with asthma to treat the underlying inflammatory disease. MAA's concern has been the under-utilization of these drugs and this treatment modality will be targeted in MAA's asthma disease management programs.

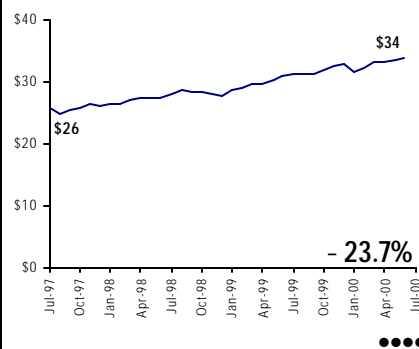
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



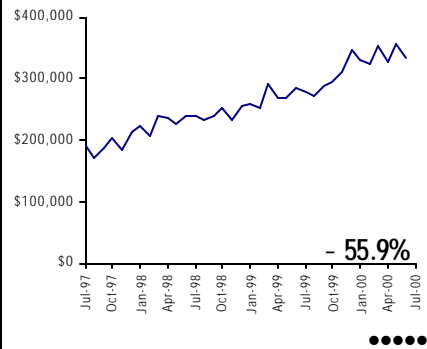
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Glucocorticoids



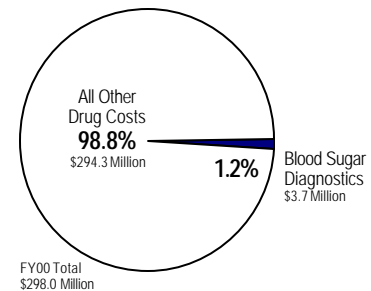
Blood Sugar Diagnostics

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP M4A

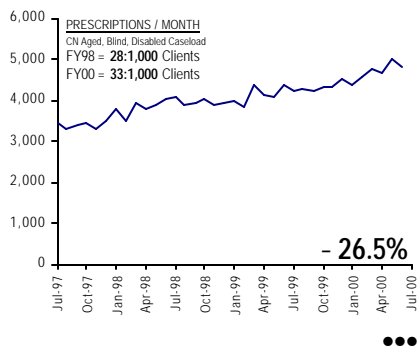
These test strips are used to indicate the amount of sugar in the blood. Diabetics use test strips to guide their insulin treatment.

Likely due to: Increased monitoring of blood sugar is the standard of care. Close control of blood sugar is associated with better health outcomes for patients with diabetes.

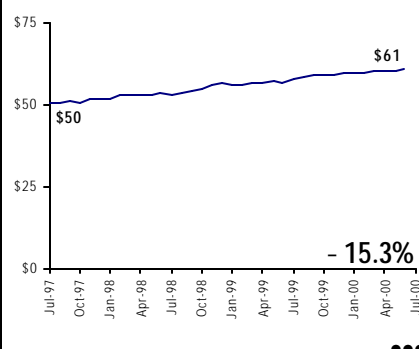
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



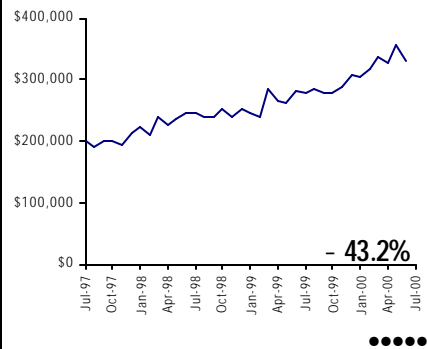
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Blood Sugar Diagnostics



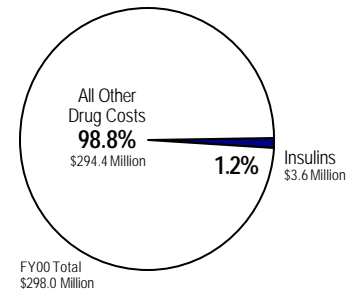
Insulins

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP C4G

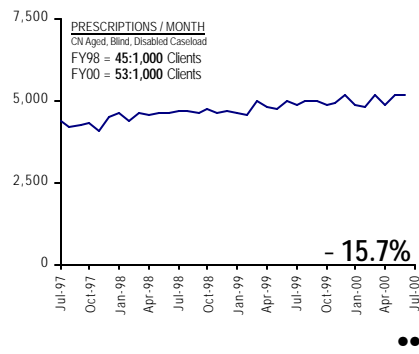
Insulin is given by injection and is used to treat the elevated blood sugar associated with diabetes.

Likely due to: Aggressive treatment with insulin to adequately control blood sugar is the standard of care. More patients with non-insulin dependent diabetes are being treated with insulin for tighter blood sugar control.

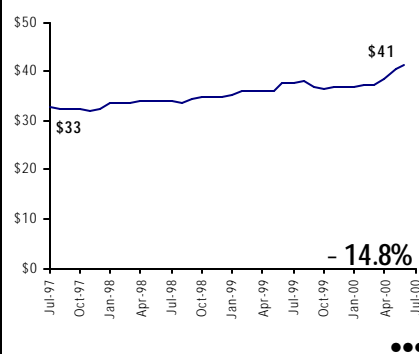
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



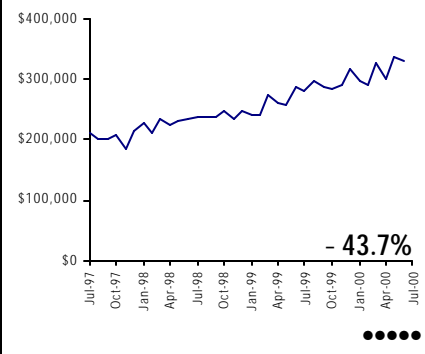
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Cost for Insulins



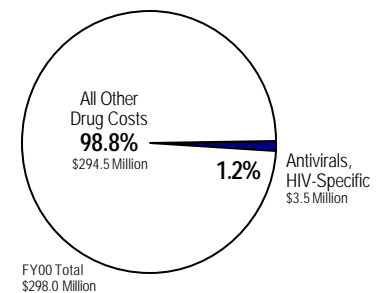
Antivirals, HIV-Specific

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP W5B

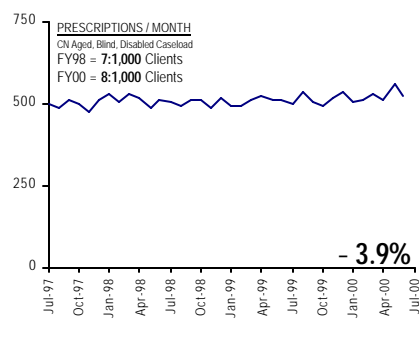
These are the drugs that are used to treat HIV-positive patients.

Likely due to: The standard of care is earlier, aggressive treatment with multiple antiviral agents.

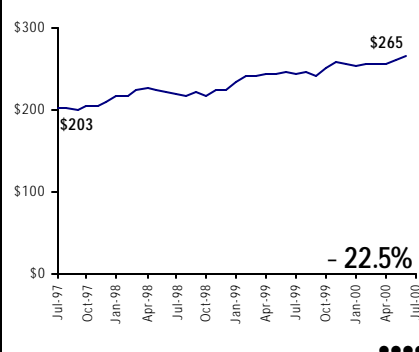
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



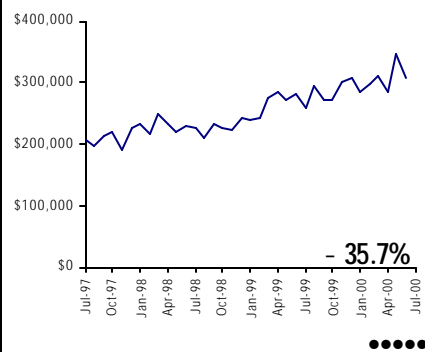
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Antivirals, HIV Specific



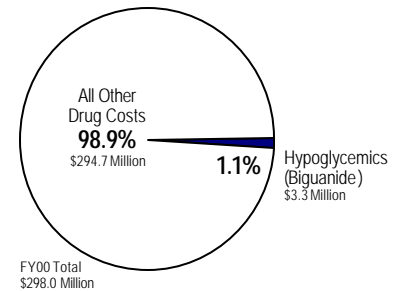
Hypoglycemics, Biguanide Type (Non-Sulfonylureas)

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP C4L

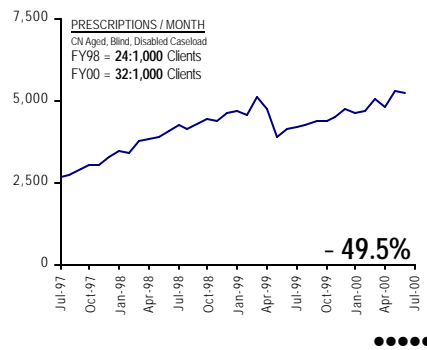
There is only one drug in this drug class, and that is Glucophage, which is an oral drug used to treat diabetes.

Likely due to: Glucophage is recognized as one of the drugs of choice for patients with diabetes. Diabetic patients are being treated with oral agents aggressively, to achieve tighter control of blood sugar. Better health care outcomes for patients with diabetics have been associated with blood sugars closer to normal.

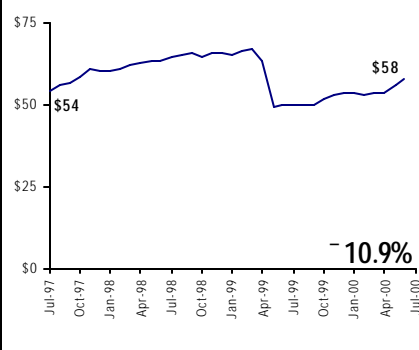
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



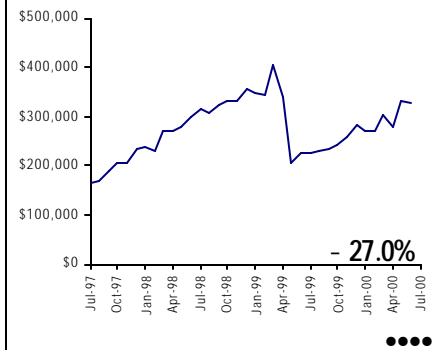
Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Hypoglycemics (Biguanide Type)



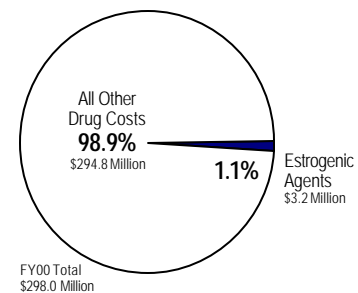
Estrogenic Agents

DRUG THERAPEUTIC GROUP G1A

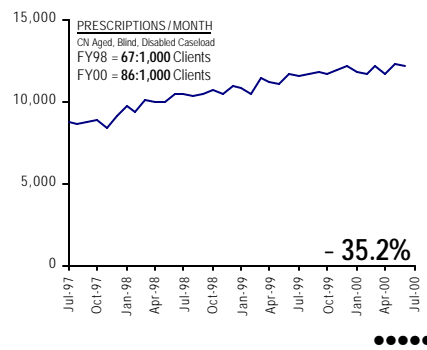
This drug class includes the estrogen replacement drugs for menopausal women.

Likely due to: The use of these drugs has been promoted for preventing and treating the loss in bone mineral density associated with menopause as well as to treat symptoms associated with menopause.

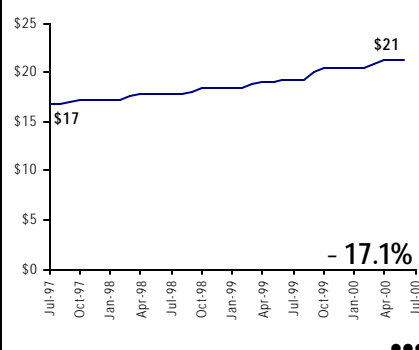
FY 2000 Drug Expenditures



Number of Clients Using These Drugs



Average Cost per Prescription



Total Costs for Estrogenic Agents

